

September 1, 1940

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**THE**

THERE ARE CRIMES OFTEN BEYOND THE REACH OF THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW... FROM HIS SECRET CRIME LABORATORY IN WILLOWOOD CEMETERY, DENNY COLT, KNOWN ONLY AS THE SPIRIT, FIGHTS CRIME AND CHAMPIONS THE CAUSE OF THE WEAK.



# SPIRIT

BY  
*Will Eisner*



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AMID THE NOISE OF STUBBY TUGBOATS, THE LINER "ARIA" DOCKS IN NEW YORK, UNLOADING REFUGEES FROM WAR-SMASHED EUROPE. . . . AMONG THEM IS THE EMINENT CHEMIST, DR. FREDRICH HOYD. . . HE IS GREETED BY AN OLD FRIEND, DR. EGEL.





IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTER-DAY THAT I ENTRUSTED MY DAUGHTER ELSA TO YOUR CARE AFTER MY POOR WIFE DIED IN VIENNA... I AM ANXIOUS TO SEE ELSA..SHE MUST BE QUITE A LADY NOW?



YES..SHE WAS TWENTY ON HER LAST BIRTHDAY.. YOU WILL STAY AT MY HOME TONIGHT. I'VE MADE RESERVATIONS FOR YOU?

AN HOUR LATER THEY ARRIVE AT A LARGE ESTATE IN THE SUBURBS.



YOUR LETTERS TELL OF A **NEW** EXPERIMENT? I'M VERY CURIOUS, EGEL..WHAT IS IT?



YOU'LL SEE...COME INTO MY STUDY, I'LL SHOW YOU?



A FULL GROWN ORANG-UTAN DRESSED AS A MAN! WHY?

ORANG, I WISH YOU TO MEET DR. HOYD!

HOW DO YOU DO?



LATER.

...AND I'VE JUST READ DARWIN'S "ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES". RATHER INTERESTING, EH, DOCTOR HOYD?

W-WHY! HE IS AMAZING! HIS MIND..... IT'S HUMAN!

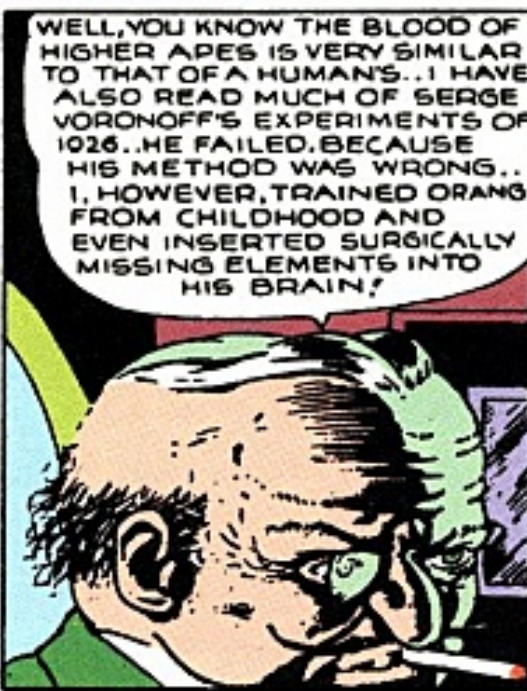


.. AND NOW WILL YOU EXCUSE ME? I MUST PUT IN MY HOUR OF STUDY. YOU SEE, I HAVE MY MENTAL EXERCISE EVERY DAY!

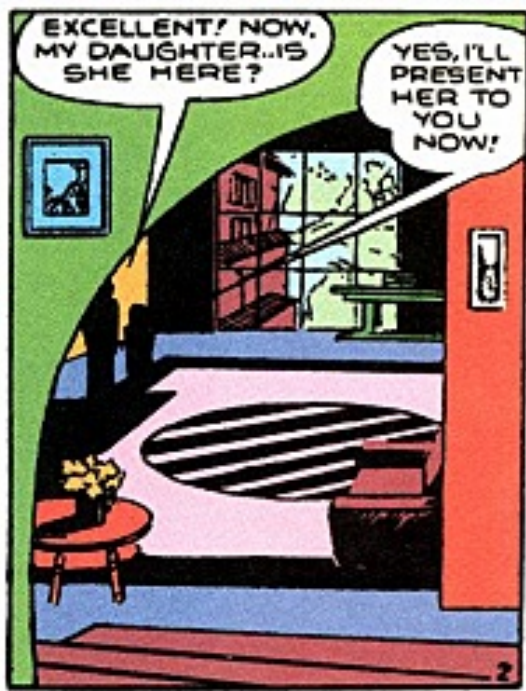


WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIM?

FANTASTIC! UNBELIEVABLE HOW DID YOU ACHIEVE THIS SUCCESS?



WELL, YOU KNOW THE BLOOD OF HIGHER APES IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF A HUMAN'S.. I HAVE ALSO READ MUCH OF SERGE VORONOFF'S EXPERIMENTS OF 1926..HE FAILED, BECAUSE HIS METHOD WAS WRONG.. I, HOWEVER, TRAINED ORANG FROM CHILDHOOD AND EVEN INSERTED SURGICALLY MISSING ELEMENTS INTO HIS BRAIN!

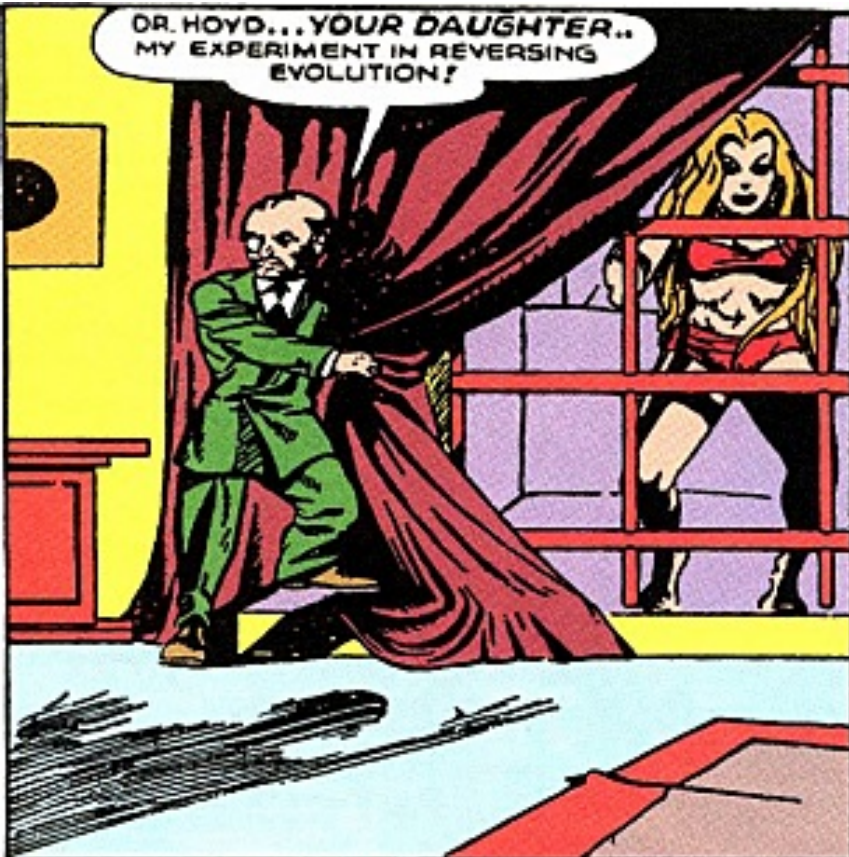


EXCELLENT! NOW, MY DAUGHTER..IS SHE HERE?

YES, I'LL PRESENT HER TO YOU NOW!



DR. HOYD... YOUR DAUGHTER..  
MY EXPERIMENT IN REVERSING  
EVOLUTION!



GOOD HEAVENS!  
WHAT HAVE YOU  
DONE TO HER??  
SHE'S A  
SAVAGE!



MORE PRECISELY, SHE IS  
A HUMAN MADE  
INTO AN APE-  
WOMAN! WHY  
ARE YOU SO STARTLED?  
ISN'T THIS ALSO A  
MARVELOUS  
ACHIEVEMENT?



YOU..  
YOU  
FIEND

ELSA, ELSA! I AM  
YOUR FATHER!!  
DON'T YOU KNOW  
ME?



DESPITE HIS PLEAS, HER SAVAGE  
EYES REMAIN COLD... AS HE  
ADVANCES, SHE LUNGES.



DAZED, SHOCKED, HE WALKS FROM  
THE HOUSE HEART BROKEN..



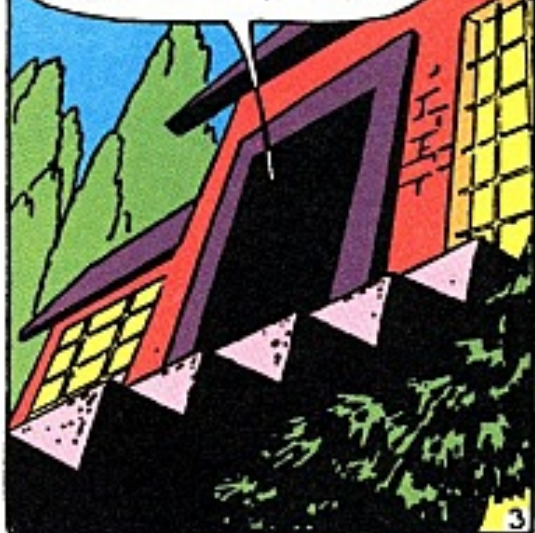
BACK AT EGE'S  
HOUSE..



WHAT FOOLS  
THESE SO CALLED  
SCIENTISTS ARE!  
HE WAS  
INTERESTED IN  
ORANG'S CHANGE,  
BUT WHEN HIS  
OWN DAUGHTER  
WAS CHANGED,  
THAT WAS  
DIFFERENT!  
BAH! FOOL!



HE'S ANGRY AND MAY  
REVEAL MY EXPERIMENT.  
THAT WOULD BE BAD..  
PEOPLE PRYING... I  
MUST GET RID OF HIM!  
I HAVE A UNIQUE WAY!





AFTER WALKING FOR AN HOUR, DR. HOYD RETURNS TO HIS HOTEL ROOM TO FIND THE **SPIRIT** AWAITING HIM.



I'M NO LONGER INTERESTED IN SCIENCE! MY CAREER IS AT AN END! I'M GOING TO KILL A MAN WHO HAS COMMITTED A HEINOUS CRIME!



..BUT THE LAW DOES NOT LIST THIS CRIME! WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO KILL A MAN WHO MADE A SAVAGE BEAST OF YOUR DAUGHTER?



I'VE A BETTER IDEA. DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH UNTIL I RETURN.. THEN WE'LL VISIT DR. EGEL... I'M SURE WE CAN RESTORE YOUR DAUGHTER.. THERE HAVE BEEN CASES LIKE THIS ON RECORD... SUCH AS "THE BABOON BOY, OF GRAHAMSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA"..



AS THE **SPIRIT** LEAVES, HE IS UNAWARE OF A STRANGE FIGURE LURKING IN THE SHADOWS. . .



IT IS ELSA! SILENTLY SHE LEADS INTO THE APARTMENT.



AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES SHE EMERGES, HER FACE SMEARED WITH A RED STAIN.. **BLOOD!!**



AN HOUR LATER THE **SPIRIT** RETURNS..



HIS THROAT IS SCRATCHED! Hmm.. AND HE SAID HIS DAUGHTER WAS... OH, GOOD HEAVENS! IT IS TOO HORRIBLE!







IN HIS ROOM AT DR.EGEL'S HOME, ORANG, THE APE-MAN, MUSES BEFORE A MIRROR.



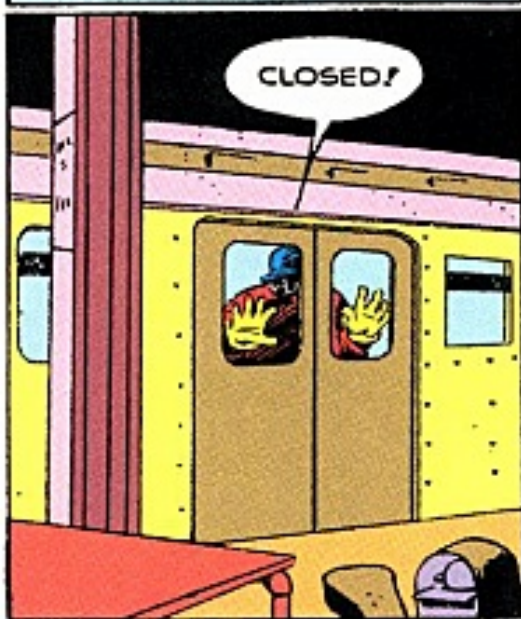




ORANG TURNS TO LOOK FOR DR. EGEL.



QUICKLY ORANG LEAPS TO THE DOORS.



THROUGH THE STREETS, HE FOLLOWS THE SCENT OF DR. EGEL.



EXERTING THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN, HE RIPS THE DOORS OPEN AND LUNGES IN PURSUIT.



THE PRIMITIVE INSTINCTS OF THE APE RISE UP IN ORANG. AFTER A MOMENT OF STRUGGLE THE BEAST GIRL LIES DEAD IN HIS POWERFUL ARMS.



IN THE SUBWAY, A TRAIN SLOWLY PULLS OUT OF A STATION. . .





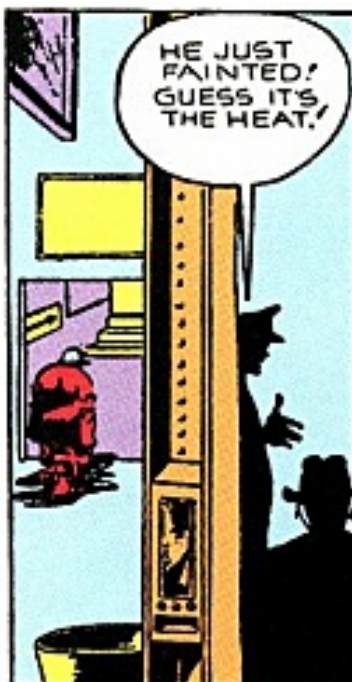


LOOK WHERE  
YER GOIN',  
Y' BIG APE!



WHO'S  
AN APE?!

!



HE JUST  
FAINTED!  
GUESS IT'S  
THE HEAT!



I'M GOING TO  
KILL YOU, DR.  
EGEL! KILL  
YOU FOR WHAT  
YOU DID TO  
ME!

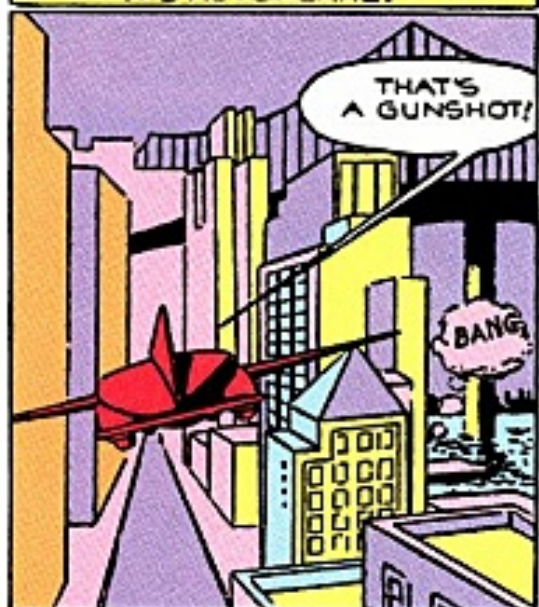
NO! NO!  
I'LL SHOOT!  
I'LL SHOOT!

THE SQUIRMING DOCTOR IS EASY  
PREY TO THE NOW SAVAGE ORANG,  
AND THE APE HURLS HIM  
INTO THE WATER BELOW. .



I HAVE KILLED HIM... NOW  
I AM A CRIMINAL IN MAN'S  
SOCIETY... OH, WHAT A  
SORRY CREATURE I AM...  
THE CREATION OF A FIEND!  
SHUNNED BY APES AND  
MEN... THERE IS ONLY  
ONE THING LEFT  
FOR ME TO DO!

MEANWHILE THE SPIRIT, HOT ON  
THE TRAIL, LANDS NEARBY IN  
HIS AUTOPLANE.



THAT'S  
A GUNSHOT!

BANG



HOPE I'M  
NOT TOO  
LATE!



BUT A RED STAIN IN THE BUBBLING  
WATER TELLS ITS OWN GRIM  
STORY. . .

BOTH OF  
THEM  
DEAD!



THE MORE I FIGHT CRIME, THE  
CLEARER IT BECOMES... CRIME  
NEVER GOES UNPUNISHED...  
THE LAW OF NATURE, LIKE  
THE LAW OF MAN, IS NOT  
TO BE DEFIED!